

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A comb-finger microstructure is disclosed for use in optical switching arrays, beam steering, optical displays, disk drive head actuators and the like. The microstructure is capable of producing  
5 linear or nonlinear actuation forces, perpendicular to the surface of a chip in which the microactuator is formed, as a function of applied voltages. The microstructure further provides the ability to detect the position of a movable structure with respect to a stationary or anchored structure.